



County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

January 30, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

*Handwritten signature/initials*

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: CalWORKs/TANF TIME LIMITS

This is to provide you with an update on the implementation of CalWORKs time limits, including a status on the impact in Los Angeles County and the special one-time services, approved/funded by your Board in June 2002, which will be available to time-limited participants between January and June 2003.

**Participant Projections/Impact**

In October, I informed you that approximately 11,000 adults were at risk of exhausting time limits in January 2003. As anticipated, that number has declined as participants left aid for other reasons and because of clockstoppers identified through DPSS' outreach efforts. A total of 2,079 adults actually timed off CalWORKs effective January 1, 2003, including 232 families whose cases were discontinued due to excess income. These participants are spread among each of your Districts, as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> District:	608
2 <sup>nd</sup> District:	423
3 <sup>rd</sup> District:	343
4 <sup>th</sup> District:	211
5 <sup>th</sup> District:	494
TOTAL	2,079

Given the decline of the January impact of time limits, we are reevaluating our time limit projections for February through June and will provide them next month. This decline is consistent with the rest of the State's experience. While Statewide estimates (earlier at 100,000) last projected less than 50,000 families who would be impacted by time limits in January 2003, the actual number of families who timed off CalWORKs in California in January is still pending.

Accordingly, there should be less concern about the resulting impacts of time limits (e.g., crime and homelessness). In fact, studies from other jurisdictions which have implemented time limits, including Florida and Washington D.C. (which have full-family sanctions/time limits) do not support such fears. In other jurisdictions, there are no indications that crime or homelessness have resulted from the implementation of time limits.

### **Services for Time-Limited Participants**

In June 2002, your Board approved \$15.1 million in Performance Incentives for services for time-limited participants. This was in addition to the approval of \$2.85 million in Performance Incentives for LTFSS Projects #14 and #15 (providing homelessness prevention services) which will be targeted for time-limited participants. In preparation for using these funds and providing services to our time-limited participants beginning January 1, 2003, DPSS has taken the following actions:

- Established a Time Limits Services Hotline, a toll-free telephone number operated by dedicated GAIN Services Workers in all the threshold languages. The purpose of this hotline is to refer individuals requesting services directly to the staff/providers who can connect them with the desired services.
- Assigned time-limited participants to specialized GAIN Services Workers who can focus on their needs. Time-limited participants, not already engaged in services, will be contacted monthly to encourage them to participate in welfare-to-work activities designed to assist them become self-sufficient.
- Made the full array of GAIN services available to time-limited participants, contingent on a participant's agreement to work in a community service assignment (of 32 hours monthly) unless he/she is otherwise employed. For the most part, services will be self-directed to afford the participant the maximum opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency within the time remaining until June 30, 2003.
- To address the concern about the potential for increased homelessness due to time limits, established an Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction Program, as well as a Moving Assistance Program (LTFSS Projects #14 and #15). Both programs will help individuals maintain their current housing and/or assist them in securing less costly housing. The programs will be administered by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). LAHSA has awarded six subcontracts throughout the County, as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Supervisory District Served</u>
Tarzana Treatment Center (3 locations)	1, 3, 4 & 5
Luthern Social Services of Southern California	3
Testimonial Community Love Center	2
City of Norwalk Social Services Center	4

- Mailed the attached fliers to all participants in their 59<sup>th</sup> month on aid, informing them about the services that are available, also providing the toll-free Time Limits Services Hotline number to call.

In addition, DPSS is establishing a Family Assessment team, made up of DPSS, DCFS, DMH, Probation, DHS, and LACOE, to consult with the Specialized GAIN Services Workers who will assess the needs of time-limited families, and assist those Workers in connecting time-limited families with the services that are available to them through all County departments. The team should be in place shortly.

### **Potential for County Liability**

Additionally, I want to advise your Board that there is a provision in State law (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11454.6) under which counties are potentially liable for CalWORKs grant costs for some cases where the adult remains aided beyond 60 months because of a clockstopper or extender, to the extent that such cases exceed 20% of each county's CalWORKs caseload.

DPSS has been closely monitoring this issue, as has the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA). At this point, the specific meaning of the provision and associated level of risk to counties are unclear as clarification is pending from the State on its interpretation of how the 20% will be determined (i.e., which cases are included in the numerator versus denominator).

Until recently, CWDA's plan had been to pursue legislation in 2003 to modify or eliminate counties' potential liability. However, last week CWDA representatives talked with the State. Although there is still not consensus on how the 20% should be calculated under current State law, State staff are projecting that Statewide only 9% of the CalWORKs caseload in FY 2003-04 will consist of participants who continue to receive the full-family grant as a result of clockstoppers/extendors. (Potential liability for counties only kicks in if the Statewide figure exceeds the 20% threshold.)

In this context, CWDA has decided not to pursue legislation on this issue during 2003 for three reasons: 1) based on the State's 9% projection, there is no apparent risk at this time for FFY 2003 or FFY 2004; 2) clarification is still pending from DSS on how the 20% would be calculated under current law; without the State's definitive interpretation of the statute, it's premature to propose language to modify/eliminate the risk to counties; and 3) the overwhelming State budget deficit for FY 2003-04 makes it better to postpone any legislation which does not have to be pursued this year.

Meanwhile, based on the State's estimate at this juncture, there does not appear to be any risk that Los Angeles County will face a liability under this provision for the foreseeable future. We will continue to monitor this and update you if our assessment changes.

BY:mq

#### **Attachments**

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel

# Dealing With CalWORKs 60-Month Limit?



## Cash Aid Cut?

### WE CAN HELP WITH:

#### A Job

SEVERAL PROGRAMS WILL GIVE YOU A PAYCHECK AND JOB EXPERIENCE FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS:

- TRANSITIONAL SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT
- PAID WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Job Skills Upgrade Training

- INTENSIVE VOCATIONAL ENGLISH FOR IMMIGRANTS—LEARN ENGLISH AND JOB SKILLS AT THE SAME TIME
- TRAINING AT YOUR WORKSITE

#### Job Search Services & Placement

#### Domestic Violence Counseling & Services

#### Mental Health & Substance Abuse Counseling

**Special GAIN Workers—To help you get training, a job and other help.**

#### Rent, Shelter or Moving Costs:

##### EMERGENCY MONEY TO PREVENT EVICTION:

IF YOU ARE BEHIND ON YOUR RENT OR UTILITIES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET MONEY TO PAY YOUR PAST DUE RENT AND/OR UTILITY BILLS.

HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES: IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD YOUR CURRENT RENT BECAUSE YOUR GRANT IS LESS AND YOU NEED TO MOVE TO KEEP FROM BEING HOMELESS, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET HELP.

MOVING COSTS: IF YOU NEED TO MOVE TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR JOB, CHILD CARE OR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET HELP WITH YOUR MOVING COSTS, A STOVE AND REFRIGERATOR.

HOMELESS AID: IF YOU ARE HOMELESS, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR MONEY FOR SHELTER FOR UP TO 16 DAYS AND FOR MOVE-IN COSTS.

#### Costs of Work/School:

- TOOLS, UNIFORMS, BOOKS
- CHILD CARE
- TRANSPORTATION-BUS FARE OR MILEAGE
- TAXIS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
- CAR REPAIRS

**MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS  
WILL END JUNE 30, 2003  
SO SIGN UP TODAY!**

YOUR FOOD STAMPS AND MEDI-CAL WILL NOT STOP BECAUSE OF THE 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT. REMEMBER-YOU MUST STILL REPORT ON YOUR CW7 MONTHLY ELIGIBILITY REPORT ALL INCOME THAT YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOME RECEIVES- EVEN IF YOU OR THEY DO NOT GET CASH AID.

**CALL YOUR GAIN WORKER TODAY OR  
1 (800) 746-1176 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# EMERGENCY MONEY TO HELP YOU MOVE

## NEED TO MOVE?

NEED A STOVE  AND REFRIGERATOR? 

WE HAVE MONEY TO HELP YOU PAY FOR

\*First and Last Month's Rent\*

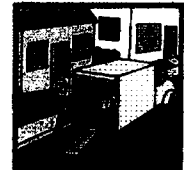
\*Security Deposit\*



\*Utility Turn On\*

\*Moving Costs\*

\*Stove and/or Refrigerator\*



### Who Can Get This Money?

**FAMILIES ON CALWORKS OR WHO RECENTLY WENT OFF CALWORKS IF:**

- YOUR CASH AID WAS CUT DUE TO THE 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT
- YOU LOST YOUR JOB
- YOUR INCOME WENT DOWN OR STOPPED
- YOUR RENT WENT UP
- YOU HAVE MEDICAL EXPENSES NOT PAID BY MEDI-CAL OR INSURANCE
- YOU HAD ANY EMERGENCY, SUCH AS FUNERAL COSTS OR CAR REPAIRS

### OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

YOU WILL GET HELP MAKING A PLAN TO KEEP YOUR HOUSING, AND YOU MUST PROVIDE PROOF FOR THE KINDS OF HELP THAT YOU NEED. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MUST PROVIDE:

- PROOF THAT YOU OWE YOUR LANDLORD FOR RENT AND SECURITY DEPOSIT. THE MONEY WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE LANDLORD.
- PROOF THAT YOU OWE MONEY TO TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS, GAS, WATER AND/OR PHONE. THE MONEY WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE UTILITY COMPANY.
- ESTIMATES FOR MOVING EXPENSES, SUCH AS FOR RENTAL OF A TRUCK. THE MONEY WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE RENTAL COMPANY.
- ESTIMATES IF YOU NEED A STOVE AND/OR REFRIGERATOR. THE MONEY WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE COMPANY WHERE YOU BOUGHT THE STOVE AND/OR REFRIGERATOR.

**REMINDER-YOU MUST REPORT ON YOUR MONTHLY ELIGIBILITY REPORT (CW7) ALL INCOME THAT YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOME GETS-EVEN IF YOU OR THEY DO NOT GET CASH AID.**

**FOR HELP CALL  
1(800) 746-1176**



## EMERGENCY MONEY TO PREVENT EVICTION

Behind on Your Rent Because of A Hardship?  
Utilities Being Turned Off?



# We Can Help Pay Your Late Rent & Utility Bills

### MONEY IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU PAY YOUR:

- LATE RENT AND/OR
- OVERDUE UTILITY BILLS

### WHO CAN GET THIS MONEY?

**FAMILIES ON CALWORKS OR WHO  
RECENTLY WENT OFF CALWORKS  
IF:**

- YOUR CASH AID WAS CUT DUE TO THE 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT
- YOU LOST YOUR JOB
- YOUR INCOME WENT DOWN OR STOPPED
- YOUR RENT WENT UP
- YOU HAVE MEDICAL EXPENSES NOT PAID BY MEDI-CAL OR INSURANCE
- YOU HAD ANY EMERGENCY, SUCH AS FUNERAL COSTS OR CAR REPAIRS



### OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- YOU MUST PROVIDE PROOF THAT YOU OWE MONEY FOR LATE RENT AND/OR UTILITIES.
- THE MONEY WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR LANDLORD AND/OR UTILITY COMPANY.
- WE WILL HELP YOU DEVELOP A PLAN SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HOUSING.

### YOU CANNOT GET THIS MONEY:

- TO PAY FOR FUTURE RENT OR UTILITY BILLS.
- IF YOU DID NOT PAY YOUR RENT OR UTILITY BILLS BECAUSE YOU USED YOUR MONEY TO PAY FOR THINGS THAT WERE NOT A HARDSHIP, SUCH AS TAKING A VACATION OR PAYING FOR CABLE TV.

**REMINDER- YOU MUST REPORT ON YOUR MONTHLY ELIGIBILITY REPORT (CWT) ALL INCOME THAT YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOME GETS- EVEN IF YOU OR THEY DO NOT GET CASH AID.**

**FOR HELP CALL  
1 (800) 746-1176**

**"THIS PROGRAM CAN ONLY PAY FOR LATE RENT AND/OR OVERDUE UTILITY BILLS"**